

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Henry Briance [Brian, Bryan] S32133

f18NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 10/4/10 & 1/19/19

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 5]

State of Illinois Montgomery County Sct.

Court of County Commissioners/Special September Term 1832

On this Eighteenth day of September A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the County Commissioners of the County of Montgomery in the State of Illinois now sitting Henry Briance Senior a resident of the County of Montgomery in the State of Illinois aged Seventy two years and nearly six months who being first duly Sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated /to wit/ he entered the Service in Mecklenburg County in the State of North Carolina under Captain James Harris under Colonel Thomas Polk in the month of February in the year 1777 as he believes. That he served near three months and was thereupon discharged by his Captain in Mecklenburg County aforesaid. He marched through various parts of North Carolina during this tour he entered the service as a volunteer. He was not engaged in any Battle. He recollects the name of one Major White [perhaps Major William White of Mecklenburg County, NC]. He again entered the Service in the same County under the same Captain under Colonel Alexander [probably Adam Alexander of Mecklenburg County NC] next July following after his discharge from the last service as a volunteer. He marched against the Indians the Cherokees General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] commanded in this as also the other Campaign he served three months he was in no Battle and there was no regular Officers in that campaign. He again entered the Service in the same County in August 1778 under Captain John Harris as a volunteer in Colonel Davie's [William Richardson Davie's] Regiment. He marched through Mecklenburg and to the South Carolina line. He served three months that tour, but was in no battle the whole detachment was Commanded by General Davidson [William Lee Davidson]. There were no regular Officers in this Service. He was discharged in the same County again. He again entered the service by enlisting in the same County for ten months under Captain Thomas Shelby in February 1781 he belonged to Colonel William Polk's Regiment under General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter]. He was acquainted with Colonel Hill [William Hill], Colonel Wade Hampton, Colonel Henry Hampton, Col. Richard Hampton and Colonel Middleton [Charles Myddleton] during this ten months service. He was at the taking of Friday's Fort at Friday's ferry.<sup>1</sup> He was at the taking of Thompson's Fort [Col. William Thomson's Plantation] near the High Hills of Santee.<sup>2</sup> He was at the taking of the Fort at Orangeburg.<sup>3</sup> He was at the Battle at the Jupiter Springs.<sup>4</sup> He was at the Battle near Bigham's [sic, Biggin]

<sup>1</sup> May 1, 1781 [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_fridays\\_ferry.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_fridays_ferry.html)

<sup>2</sup> February 22, 1781 [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_thomsons\\_plantation.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_thomsons_plantation.html)

<sup>3</sup> May 11, 1781 [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_orangeburgh\\_2.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_orangeburgh_2.html)

<sup>4</sup> June 18, 1781 [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_mydeltons\\_ambuscade.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_mydeltons_ambuscade.html)

Church, near Moncks Corner. He was at the Battle near the Strawberry plains.<sup>5</sup> He was at the Battle at the Eutaw Springs.<sup>6</sup> Also at the battle two miles below Orangeburg at a place called Monroe's old field. He was acquainted with Col. Washington [William Washington], Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee], Colonel Malmedy [Francis de Malmedy, Marquis of Bretagne], General Henderson [William Henderson] and saw Colonel Williams [probably Colonel Otho Williams] and Colonel Campbell [probably Colonel William Campbell] but had no acquaintance with them. He marched through South Carolina this Campaign and was Constantly under the Command of General Green [Nathanael Greene] as chief. He received no discharge this Campaign on account of being Furloughed in the latter part of the Service and was never again Called. He has no documentary evidence or discharge. He knows of John Purviance who served with him by whom he could prove his Servitude if said Purviance was here. He believes he lives in Sangamon County Illinois. I Henry Briance do hereby relinquish every Claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. (Interrogatories propounded by the Court to the said Henry Briance)

1<sup>st</sup>: Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in York County in Pennsylvania in the year 1760 on 27<sup>th</sup> March.

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?

Ans. I have none.

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans. I was living in Mecklenburg County North Carolina when I entered the Service and during the Whole revolutionary. I have lived in North Carolina, Indiana and Illinois Since the revolutionary War, I now live in the County of Montgomery in the State of Illinois where I have lived for the last 14 years.

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute?

Ans. I was a volunteer and served nine months as such and 10 months as a regular.

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans. I Served the first nine months in the militia entirely six months under General Rutherford and three months under General Davidson against the Tories and Indians. I was acquainted with Col. Grimes of the Rowan Troops and my own Colonels named heretofore. I served the next 10 months in the regular Army in Colonel William Polk's Regiment. I was there acquainted with Colonel Hill, Col. Wade Hampton, Colonel Henry Hampton, Colonel Richard Hampton and Colonel Middleton and General Sumter, Colonel Washington, Colonel Lee, Colonel Malmedy, General Henderson and General Marion.

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so by whom was it given; and what has become of it?

Answer. I received discharges for my services in the Militia but none for my Services as a regular. I do not know what has become of my discharges.

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Ans. I am acquainted with the Reverend Thomas Potter and John Mysenhamer Esqr.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court this date above.

S/ Henry Briance

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<sup>5</sup> July 16, 1781 [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_strawberry\\_ferry.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_strawberry_ferry.html)

<sup>6</sup> September 8, 1781 [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_eutaw\\_springs.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html)

[Thomas Potter, a clergyman, and John Mysenhamer gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

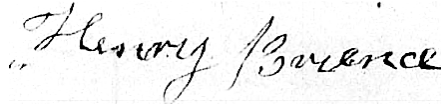
[p 8]

State of Illinois in Montgomery County

Personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace for said County being within named Henry Briance Sr. who being duly Sworn deposed and saith that by reason of Old age and the Consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades: for Eight months and twenty days I served as a volunteer in three separate tours. For ten months I served as a regular soldier, making in the Whole Eighteen months and twenty days and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn to and subscribed this 29<sup>th</sup> day of December A.D. 1832

S/ Henry Briance



S/ George H. Anderson, Justice of the peace for Montgomery County

[p 3]

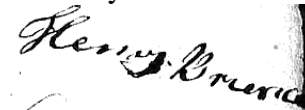
State of Illinois Montgomery County

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace in and for said County Henry Briance Senior who being first Sworn deposed & saith that by reason of Old age and the Consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following Grades: for two months & twenty days he served under Captain James Harris in Colonel Thomas Polk's Regiment in Mecklenburg County North Carolina as a volunteer private. For three months I served under the same Captain in Colonel Alexander's Regiment in the same County & State also as a volunteer private. For three months I served under Captain John Harris in Colonel Davie's Company in this same County & State also as a volunteer private. For ten months I served under Captain John Shelby in Colonel William Polk's Regiment under General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] in the same County & State & in the State of South Carolina in the year 1781 as a regular soldier or a private making in the Whole Eighteen months & twenty days & for such service I Claim to a pension. It may be proper to state that the last detachment under General Sumter in which I served ten months, was also called State troops: they were not what was termed Continental troops.

Sworn to and Subscribed before me this 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1833.

S/ George H. Anderson, Justice Peace

S/ Henry Briance



[p 3]

State of Illinois Montgomery County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for said County John Purviance<sup>7</sup> of the County of Sangamon & State aforesaid aged 70 years or upwards who being duly Sworn deposed & saith that he knew the above named Henry Briance Senior who has Subscribed & Sworn to the above affidavit in the Service of the United States in the revolutionary War & that he knows the Contents of said affidavit to be true he further States that

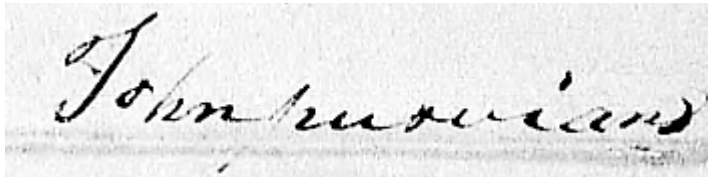
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<sup>7</sup> [John Purvians S32459](#)

the ten months service spoken of above was State troops instead of regular although they were under regular officers after they entered the Service to wit Generals Henderson & Greene having started under General Sumter & further this deponent saith not.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25<sup>th</sup> March 1833.

S/ John Purviance



S/ George H. Anderson, Justice of Peace

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$62.22 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 18 months and 20 days service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]

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South Carolina Audited Accounts<sup>8</sup> relating to Henry Briance [Bryan, Brian] AA3

Audited Account Microfilm file No. 853A

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/19/19

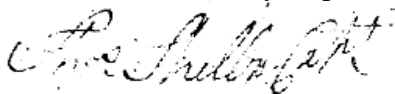
[p 2: A very poor and largely illegible image of an affidavit signed by Henry Briance in which it appears he claims to have served under Col. William Polk. The affidavit appears to have been given in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Throughout the affidavit the claimant is referred to as "Henry Brian." He appears to have sold his title to the claim to someone named William, surname illegible. The affidavit is attested by Adam Alexander JP and signed by the claimant as follows:



[p 3: Likewise a very poor image but I believe it reads substantially as follows:

I the Subscriber do Certify that the within Henry Brian served the tours of Enlistment and was a [several words too faint to discern] in my Company and is entitled to the whole bounty according to the articles of enlistment. Certified by me  
November 18<sup>th</sup>, 1785

S/ Thos Shelby Capt.



July 27 1786 I do assign all my right and title of the within obligation unto James Maxwell  
S/ William Balch<sup>9</sup>]

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<sup>8</sup> The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AA) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name. The "SC" file number shown on this transcript has been assigned by the administrator of this website for indexing purposes only and is not an officially recognized file number.

<sup>9</sup> No documents in this file show how Balch acquired a right in the claim.